REMARKS/AGRUMENTS

Pending Claims

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application. Of these claims, Claims 1 and 13 are independent claims and the remaining claims are dependent claims.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Price et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2005/0102362) [hereinafter "Price"] in view of Harper (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0143642) [hereinafter "Harper"].

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Price and Harper as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Meade, II et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0140966).

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unptatentable over Price and Harper as applied to claim 6, and further in view of Hayward et al.(U.S. Patent 6,629,134).

Claims 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Price and Harper as applied to claim 1, and further in view of DeMaria ("Rendezvous of the LAN side").

Claims 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Price et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2005/0102362) in view of Harper (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0143642).

Claim 16 is rejected over Price and Harper, and further in view of Meade II.

Claim 19 is rejected over Price and Harper, and further in view of Hayward.

Claims 21-24 are rejected over Price and Harper, and further in view of DeMaria.

Traversal of Rejection under 35 USC 103(a)

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of Claims 1 - 24, under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being obvious to one or ordinary skill in the art.

Turning to the specific claim language of the present invention, independent Claim 1 is directed to a method for using real-time communications to obtain products and/or services comprising launching a real-time chat application on a client device, logging into the real-time chat application, wherein logging into the real-time chat application initiates a discovery operation on the client device, displaying peripheral devices connected to the client device detected by the discovery operation, selecting a peripheral device from the detected peripheral devices, displaying products and/or services for the selected peripheral device, and obtaining products and/or services for the selected peripheral device.

The present invention describes a method for obtaining products and/or services for peripheral devices connected to a client device by discovering the peripheral devices connected to the client device and then displaying the products and/or services for a particular peripheral device upon selection of that device all from within a real-time chat application.

Applicant respectfully submits that Price and Harper, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose at least the above-noted features of the present invention.

Price is seen to describe a method and system for communicating with computer system peripheral devices, wherein Instant Messaging software is embedded within a peripheral device. The peripheral device uses the embedded software to communicate with a computer

system responsive to an event. More specifically, the peripheral device uses the embedded

software to send out Instant Messaging messages responsive to a status of the peripheral device

or an event. In addition, the peripheral device receives and processes Instant Messaging

messages from a user, application program, or other device, and responsively takes action to the

Instant Messaging message.

Nothing in Price is seen to describe at least the foregoing feature of the present

invention of initiating a discovery operation on a client device upon logging into a real-time chat

application, displaying peripheral devices connected to the client device detected by the

discovery operation, selecting a peripheral device from the detected peripheral devices,

displaying products and/or services for the selected peripheral device, and obtaining products

and/or services for the selected peripheral device.

According to the Office Action, the fact that Price references a real-time chat

application implies that discovery of messages from peripheral devices is made possible by the

launching and logging into a real-time chat application.

First, the Office Action provides no support for the assertion that launching a real-

time chat application makes it possible to discover messages from peripheral devices. Real-time

chat applications are seen to simply send and receive messages intended for/addressed to a

particular real-time chat address, similar to the way electronic mail messages are sent to

particular electronic mail addresses. Sending and receiving message is by no means equivalent to

performing a device discovery operation. In addition, nothing in Price is seen to even remotely

describe the function of device discovery.

Second, discovery of messages is not the same function as device discovery.

Discovery of messages is simply that, discovery of a particular message(s). It cannot be implied

from the discovery of a message that a particular device has been discovered. Device discovery

on the other hand is the discovery of the existence of a device. Device discovery and discovery

of messages are two separate and distinct operations. While Price is seen to disclose displaying

message on a client device based on the status or event of a peripheral device, nothing in Price is

seen to even remotely describe any type of device discovery operation nor is anything in Price

seen to even remotely describe displaying peripheral devices discovered via a discovery

operation.

      The Office Action also states that the Abstract and paragraphs 18-20 and 25 of

Price teaches displaying message from peripheral device connected to a client device and

displaying products and/or services for the peripheral device. Applicant respectfully asserts that

these sections are nothing more than a summary of the preferred embodiment of Price. More

specifically, the Abstract and paragraphs 18-20 and 25 describe the communication of Instant

Messaging software between client computers or devices through an Instant Messaging server,

where the use of Instant Messaging embedded in peripheral devices enable the device to

implement an automated response service. Nothing in either the Abstract, paragraphs 18-20, or

25 are seen to disclose or describe at least the foregoing features of the present invention.

      The Office Action concedes that Price does not disclose selecting a peripheral

device from the detected peripherals. According to the Office Action, the displaying of messages

implies some type of selection. First, there is no support in Price for the notion that selection of

devices occurs as a results of displaying messages. Second, the display of messages that may be

associated with a peripheral device is a separate and unique operation from the operation of

selecting a peripheral device from a set of detected peripheral devices. In addition, selection of a

message that may be associated with a particular peripheral device is not seen to be the same operation as selecting the peripheral device.

The Office Action also concedes that Price does not expressly disclose obtaining products and/or services for the selected peripheral devices and references. Harper (Abstract and paragraphs 33 and 34) is referenced as making up for this deficiency.

Harper is seen to describe a system for assisting a user in detecting a need to replenish a consumable for a computer peripheral device. The system is able to automatically order consumables for the purpose of replenishing the consumable.

The Abstract and paragraphs 33 and 34 of Harper describe web resellers gathering customer profile data along with customer preferences in order to generate emails to send back to the customer for the next consumable supplies purchase. Also, out- of-supply alerts are configured to trigger automatic reorder of consumables supplies for the device.

Nothing in either the Abstract or paragraphs 33 and 34 of Harper are seen to describe the foregoing features of the present invention. More specifically, in the present invention, after performance of a discovery operation initiated by logging into a real-time chat application and selection of a particular peripheral device discovered via the discovery operation, a user is presented products and services pertaining to the peripheral device. These include such items as supplies and products related to the selected peripheral device, as well as support information associated with the peripheral device, various products and equipment unrelated to the peripheral device, registering for alerts or time-sensitive actionable information unique to the peripheral device, and enabling remote management features. As stated above, Harper only teaches capturing customer references from a reseller web server to order consumables for the peripheral device.

Because neither Price nor Harper disclose or suggest at least the foregoing features of the present invention, Applicant submits that any combination of these references does not render the present invention obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) and indicate that this claim is allowable. In addition, since claim 13 is a system equivalent of claim 1 and was rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, Applicant submits that claim 13 is allowable as well.

Further Applicant submits that claims 2-12 and 14-24 are allowable for the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claim 1 and 13 respectfully, and because these claims recite additional features that further define the present invention.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that each and every pending claim of the present invention meets the requirements for patentability under 35 U.S.C. 103, and respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate the allowance of such claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that none of the references of record render obvious the Applicant's invention as recited in Claims 1-24. The applied references of record have been discussed and distinguished, while claim features of the present invention have been pointed out.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action and allowance of the present application and all the claims is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached at (949) 932-3329. All correspondences should be directed to the below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/ Sivon Kalminov/
Sivon Kalminov
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 40, 042

CANON U.S.A., Intellectual Property Division
15975 Alton Parkway
Irvine, CA. 92618
Facsimile: (949) 932-3560